

<http://www.hiresa.co.za/cape-brick-launches-new-vr18-retaining-wall-block/>



## Cape Brick launches new VR18 retaining wall block

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Cape Brick has launched a new retaining wall block, the VR18. This retaining wall block is reversible, with different finishes on either side. Produced by PMSA's Cape Town office, the mould was difficult to make and took some time to design.

Cape Brick has enjoyed a long association with PMSA, recently installing a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system at its Philippi facility to serve the mixing and block plants on an integrated platform.

The SCADA system displays visual, animated graphics of machine operation, machine parameter control and data capture. “It has proven to be a tool that we cannot run without, as its advanced and interactive efficiency increases daily manufacture by between 10% and 20%,” comments Cape Brick Director Jacques Tresfon.

### **Innovation from PMSA**

The latest technology from PMSA has allowed Cape Brick to focus on its mandate of providing the best quality products. Another innovative PMSA concrete solution supplied recently to Cape Brick is the FL Ludwig wall scraper mounted probe. This tool ensures highly-consistent water dosing in the mixture, which ultimately results in more predictable concrete.

Established in 1938, Cape Brick is the longest-established manufacturer of quality concrete masonry in operation in the Cape. The comprehensive product range includes standard masonry products such as all sizes of bricks and blocks, as well as retaining wall blocks and decking blocks. In 2009 the company introduced a range of wet-cast paving products, featuring over 300 different modules in a wide variety of colours and textures.

Cape Brick operates a brick-and-block facility at Philippi and Blackheath and a wet cast operation producing slabs and cobbles. PMSA equipment in operation at Philippi includes a VB4X block machine, a P1500 mixer and an insulated racking system, among others.

### **Recycled material**

A unique feature of Cape Brick is its extensive use of recycled material in its production. Cape Brick typically make up to 600t of product a day in a double shift at Philippi, and 180t to 200t in a single shift a day at Blackheath.

The extensive crushing operation prepares about 300 t to 400 t of aggregates a day to supply the company’s facilities. While it is easy to use 10% to 20% recycled material, once you go beyond 30% to 40%, there is generally a big drop in quality.

Therefore Cape Brick have developed intellectual property in upping their recycled content to 70%.

PMSA has played an ongoing role in the company's development, especially when it relocated its facility from Salt River to Philippi. The plant was basically rebuilt, but retained the VB4X block machine and switched from a P1000 to a P1500 mixer. The mixing was fully automated and a new moisture control system was installed, as well



as rebuilding the entire racking system.

### **Affordable housing**

Cape Brick is now able to handle 4 200 pallets in the factory, as opposed to 3 000 previously, which continues to give it an edge in the highly competitive and quality-conscious Western Cape market.

The investment in the latest technology from PMSA has allowed Cape Brick to focus on its mandate of providing the best quality products.

The use of recycled aggregates does mean more abrasion and friction on the equipment, but overall the production costs are lower. In order to be able to incorporate recycled aggregates effectively, you need to have a major crushing network. That by itself is a major investment.

- See more at: <http://www.hiresa.co.za/cape-brick-launches-new-vr18-retaining-wall-block/#sthash.S7WIEA5H.dpuf>